

Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES

5th February - Headteacher's Coffee afternoon 2.15pm
9th February - Year 4 class assembly 9.15am
9th February - Internet Safety Day
10th February - Chinese New Year Assembly
11th February - Valentines Themed Lunch
15th-19th February - Half term
22nd February - Creative week
22nd February - Green shift Science workshop for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2
23rd February - Green shift Science workshop for Year 3,4,5 and 6
23rd February - Mini Beast show for Nursery and Reception
23rd February - House of Objects workshop for Year 1 and 2
24th February - Year 6 to visit Newcastle University
26th February - The Punctuation Show Year 1-6
1st March - Year 1 Agility Challenge Festival - Oxclose Academy
1st March - Year 6 class assembly 9.15am
3rd March - Year 2 Agility Challenge Festival - Oxclose Academy
3rd March - World Book Day - Book swap
7th March - RNLI in school
8th March - Parent Consultations/3-5pm Mid Year Reports
9th March - Parent Consultations 3-6pm Mid Year Reports
10th March - Year 4 to visit Centre of Life
11th March - Viking visitor Year 5
14th March - Maths calculation workshop for parents 2.15pm or 3.30pm
15th March - Year 1 assembly 9.15am
17th March - Year 3 to visit Segedunum
18th March - Royal Air Force Orchestra to perform concert
21st March - SAT's workshop for Year 6 parents
21st March - Easter Bonnet Parade 9.15am
22nd March - Year 5 class assembly 9.15am
22nd March - Egg competition
23rd March - 100% attendance buffet lunch
23rd March - Last day of Spring Term
11 April - School reopens for Summer Term

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Date: Feb 16

Headteacher's Update

As the half term holiday quickly approaches, I am delighted to inform you that Mr Barrass has been appointed to the permanent post of Deputy Headteacher here at Blackfell. Not only an outstanding practitioner and previous member of our leadership team, I have no doubt that Mr Barrass will continue to support me to lead and build on our school's many achievements.

I am particularly looking forward to our Creative Week (w/c 22nd February). We have many visits, visitors and activities to support and develop the children's skills in a wide range of drama, art, music, dance and creative writing activities to name just a few. This week will be funded by the money raised during our successful Christmas Fair.

We are always keen to try new ideas to support extra curricular provision and educational visits. Year 5 will be the first group of children to visit Gibside National Trust for an overnight residential in April. This is something new to our school and we are looking forward taking part in many outdoor adventurous activities.

Finally I would like to welcome two new children, Raisa and Erika, to our school. The girls are from Romania and have both settled very well. I am delighted with how all children across the school have supported them with the transition.

Enjoy the half term break when it comes

With very best wishes,

Julia Watkins

Keep Blackfell Clean and Tidy

Councillor Scaplehorn will be working with the school council to lead a project in the local area to improve the environment. A particular focus will be a competition to design posters to be displayed on lamp posts to encourage dog owners to keep paths and areas of the village clear of dog fouling. A letter will be sent out by Miss Kitchen next half term.

Pupil Questionnaires

Miss Kitchen and the school council will be administering and evaluating our pupil questionnaires next week. I'm sure the children will have lots of ideas to improve our school even further. All results will be included in future newsletters with action for the term ahead.

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Safeguarding

Safeguarding is our school priority and everyone's business. We would like to remind you of some policies and procedures we have at Blackfell to ensure children are safe at all times. School begins promptly at 8.55am. The main school gates open for year 1 to 6 children from 8.45am and the playground is supervised by school staff. Key stage 1 and 2 gates are locked promptly at 8.55am. In the event of inclement weather, all children across the school can enter school from 8.45am. Nursery and Reception gates are locked at 9am. If you arrive after this time you must bring your child to the main school entrance. If your child has an appointment or needs to be collected for any reason, they must be collected from the main office. Children will only be able to be collected at the end of the school day by an adult that is known to their class teacher/member of staff. We understand that arrangements can change. If a different adult is collecting your child e.g. to go to home to a friend's house for tea, a family emergency etc, you must inform the school office as we can not allow your child to go home unless we are aware of the change of circumstances. If you would like your child to walk home unaccompanied by an adult in years 5 or 6 or wish to collect them out of sight of a school staff member e.g. at Blackfell Park, please could you read and complete the required 'Walking Home Alone' form which Year 5 and 6 children have been given and return it to the office. Many thanks for your understanding. These practices ensure that Safeguarding procedures are clearly followed by all of our school community.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March. We will be having a book swap day so if your child has any books they have read and no longer require they can bring it into school and swap it. Children will also be served with a drink of hot chocolate and marshmallows. Teachers will be visiting other classes reading stories throughout the day. All children have been given a £1 World Book token which can be used between 29th Feb - 27th March at various bookshops. All children to wear school uniform on this day.

Valentines Lunch

On Thursday 11th February lunch will be served in a themed valentines box. Children can choose from chicken nuggets or quorn sausage in a bun both served with fries. Pudding will be ice-cream. If your child normally has packed lunch and they would like to have a dinner please forward £1.90 to the office.

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Attendance

Unfortunately we have had a lot of illnesses across our school the past half term including flu, viral infections and chicken pox. We understand that when children are unwell they can not attend school. Please remember to call the school office if your child is ill and unable to attend school by 9.15am. Even though your child may not be on track for 100% attendance initiatives, we have spot prizes throughout the year so that they can be rewarded for making every effort to attend school when well enough. I am pleased to announce that Year 3 had the highest attendance for January. The class will be rewarded with a movie and popcorn afternoon next week. In addition, our two week 100% incentive begins on Monday 8th February until Friday 26th February. All children's who achieve 100% over these two weeks will have the opportunity to have their name drawn out of a hat for a spot prize.

Library Service

Join 'Explore Learning at Sunderland City Library' during the half term holiday. The following workshops are being ran for parents and children. On Monday 15th February at 10.30 until 11.30 'The Gruffalo' for children aged 5-6 years, 1pm until 2pm 'The Twits' for children aged 6-8 years and at 2.30pm until 3.30pm the workshop will be on 'Pirates'. To book any of the above please contact 561 1235 or pop into Sunderland Library. Also on Saturday 6th February there will be a family storysack session at Washington Town Centre Library from 10.30 am until 12 noon. Bring along your child's favourite book and design and decorate your own storysack and hand puppet. For further details and to check out other events throughout the holidays please contact Washington Town Library on 5613441.

Sainsburys Active Kids

Sainsburys active kids is back for 2016. The promotion runs from 27th January-3rd May. Please collect as many tokens as possible to help the school buy new sports equipment and cooking equipment for the children. The box is situated in the new school entrance.